



The Ethic

Leon F. Vinci, MPH Health Director

Phil Rooney Editor/Layout

Spring, 1999

Pollution Prevention (P2), or source reduction, is the core environmental ethic of our society.

It's Your *ETHIC*



Pollution prevention (P2) is an ethic, a way of doing business. The goal is to reduce waste, cut costs, and reduce regulatory burdens by coming into compliance with environmental regulations. These behaviors protect your business while protecting the health and safety of workers, neighborhoods, and families.

We at the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) would like to be partners in your business success. We would also like to see businesses that have found methods and tools that work sharing those insights with other businesses with similar needs in a mentoring program. If your business is interested in exploring these possibilities, please contact Phil Rooney at 441-8644.

We would also like to provide information in this quarterly newsletter that you find useful. Please let us know the types of articles you want to read more about and the kinds of information that you need. You can provide this information by calling Phil Rooney at 441-8644.



The P 2 Corner

Save Energy to Reduce Waste

While trying to stop pollution before it starts and reduce waste, we sometimes overlook simple or obvious solutions. The use, or overuse, of energy can have a tremendous impact on the environment and on the pocketbook.

Reducing energy use reduces waste in the company and at the power plant. Careful use of energy can reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Best of all, saving energy saves dollars. **Climate Wise** can help businesses find ways to reduce energy use, reduce waste, and save money. Contact the LLCHD, 441-8040, or Jeff Graef, Nebraska Energy Office, 471-3218 (Jgraef@mail.state.ne.us) for more information about this program.

What Others Say—

DAVID W. HOFFMAN

Pollution prevention . . . has the simple goal of eliminating pollution in products and processes, that is, to stop creating pollution in the first place. . . . Missing in this definition, however, is the fact that pollution prevention has to be adopted as a value or a way of life by both the regulator and the regulated community from the boardroom to the laboratory to the manufacturing plant. According to Dave Benforado of 3M, "we believe that pollution prevention pays in terms of environmental benefit, lower treatment and disposal costs, operating savings, improved product quality and a more positive corporate image."

Journal of the Air & Waste Management Association.
November 1992; Vol. 42, No. 11; 1399.

Free Risk Management Plan Software

—FROM THE EPA WEBSITE ([HTTP://WWW.EPA.GOV/CEPP0/RMPSUBMT.HTML](http://www.epa.gov/ceppo/rmpsubmt.html)); MODIFIED SLIGHTLY



RMP*Submit is the free, official EPA, personal computer software for facilities to use in submitting Risk Management Plans (RMP) required under the Risk Management Program. Portions of the RMP you submit to EPA will be publicly available on the Internet via **RMP*Info**.

RMP*Submit has all the data elements identified in the RMP regulations. It helps you avoid common reporting errors by verifying whether you have completed all required data elements—using the same completeness check that will be used at the RMP Reporting Center. It allows you to correct errors before submitting your RMP, accepts limited graphics, and provides on-line help.

RMP*Submit is based on the requirements of PART 68 (Chemical Accident Prevention Provisions) of the *Code of Federal Regulations* and the RMP amendments proposed on April 17, 1998, signed by EPA Administrator Carol Browner on December 29, 1998, and published in the *Federal Register* in early January. (Approval of the Information Collection Request [ICR] for these amendments from the Office of Management and Budget [OMB] is pending. Please wait until the ICR is approved by OMB to submit your RMP. The approval will be announced in the *Federal Register*.)

You may use other software products to submit your RMP but you may also want to use **RMP*Submit** for its validation check prior to submission. **RMP*Submit** is available at <http://www.epa.gov/ceppo/rmpsubmt.html> on the internet.

Submit your completed RMP on diskette to EPA by June 21, 1999, using the instructions in Chapter 5 of the *User Manual*. Send them to: RMP Reporting Center - P.O. Box 3346 - Merrifield, VA 22116-3346. (Note: RMPs must be submitted on diskette. Small businesses that do not have computer access are eligible for an "electronic waiver" and can submit their reports on paper.)

**P2/FINANCE: Pollution Prevention
Financial Analysis and Cost
Evaluation System**

P2/FINANCE is a spreadsheet software application for conducting financial evaluations of current and potential investments. It is unique among capital budgeting tools, because it expressly addresses traditional obstacles to the financial justification of pollution prevention (P2) investments. Specifically, P2/FINANCE differs from conventional practices by expanding the cost and savings inventory to include indirect and less tangible environmental costs, and by using profitability indicators and time horizons that capture the longer-term savings typical of pollution prevention investments.



P2/FINANCE 3.0 was developed and is copyrighted by the Tellus Institute for Resource and Environmental Strategies. For further details about the contents and capabilities of P2/FINANCE, visit the Tellus Institute's website at www.tellus.org. At the Tellus website you will also find information about a version of P2/FINANCE in Spanish, versions tailored to specific industries, and a P2/FINANCE version tailored to British Columbia's tax and depreciation systems. Also at that website you will find information about E2/FINANCE (Energy & Environment Financial Analysis and Cost Evaluation System). E2/FINANCE is similar to P2/FINANCE, but also contains an energy module to track fuel use and energy costs.

More information is available from: <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/acctg/download/p2finan.htm>

“Consuming less costs less. Think of it as ‘loss prevention’—just as you would protect your organization from thieves or fraud; protect it from wasteful use of often costly resources such as power and paper. If you want it to happen—manage it. Put someone in charge.”

From an editorial by John Peters, Editor. January, 1999. *Latest Management Research and Practice*. (An e-journal [electronic journal] found on the internet at: <http://www.mcb.co.uk/lmrp/issues/lmrp99-1.htm>)

**ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP/
ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE**

A new effort is underway in Lincoln and Lancaster County to bring together businesses, environmental groups, regulatory agencies, financial lenders, private citizens, and other individuals and groups. The primary goal is to create a voluntary waste-reduction program that will encourage and reward businesses for going beyond compliance with environmental regulations. A secondary goal is to educate businesses and the

public about environmental issues and related topics.



This effort is the brainchild of John Hetcko, Square D, and has received the

support and involvement of state and local governmental agencies, UNL, and area businesses. The group has met three times at the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department. The first task has been to identify similar programs around the nation.

The Clean Corporate Citizen (C3) program in Michigan requires that businesses develop an environmental management system (EMS) and be engaged in P2. In return the business is promised faster turnaround time on permit review, is not required to obtain “construction permits for new processes as long as the emissions for the entire facility stay below the established cap,” and an expanded waiver for construction and operation during the permit review.

Colorado’s Environmental Leader program contains similar requirements. The incentives are also similar to Michigan’s; however, Colorado offers credits to apply to permit fees and recognition from the governor. Colorado offers “the potential for reduced environmental compliance inspections.” In addition, Colorado promises faster permit review.

The members of the Nebraska group need business input to identify meaningful incentives for P2 and environmental excellence. If you would like to be involved or make suggestions on incentives contact John Hetcko (402-421-4505) or Marcia Willhite (402-441-8040).

<http://interlinc.ci.lincoln.ne.us/InterLinc/city/health/envIRON/pollu/index.htm>

The Ethic is published quarterly by the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department and is distributed to Special Waste Permit holders and other businesses in Lincoln and Lancaster County.

For more information or for P2 technical assistance, call 441-8040.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department
3140 "N" Street
Lincoln, NE 68510-1514

